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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

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COUNTRY Ethiopia

DATE: 25X1A6a

SUBJECT Plans for Increase in Strength  
of Ethiopian Army  
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SUPPLEMENT

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1. The Ethiopian Army will soon be increased from the present strength of two divisions numbering approximately 15,000 men to four divisions and a headquarters company with a total strength of between 40,000 and 48,000.
2. This increase in strength has been considered for some time and several requests for equipment for four divisions have been presented to the American Legation. These requests have not been granted by the FLC because of the failure of the Ministry of War to realize the cost or quantity of material concerned in such a requisition.
3. The Ethiopian Government will soon present a request for transport, equipment, combat supplies and rations to further this increase. They hope to obtain these materials and supplies in the U.S. through the WAA and in Europe through the FLC on the credit terms allowed for the planes bought from the FLC by the Ethiopian Air Lines, which allowed four years to pay the amount in equal annual installments. The supplies mentioned were uniforms, rations, trucks, and spirits.
4. The Ministry of War intends to use a "Pollock and Co. of New York" as its agents for selection and shipment of the supplies if the transaction is approved. There are indications that several private citizens and officials of the Ethiopian Government plan to obtain a profit from the transaction.

5. The Ministry of War plans to place all its forces in permanent barracks throughout the country and establish messes similar to those of the British and American Armies. A small Headquarters Company only will remain close to Addis Ababa.

The present Ethiopian Army is costing the country over \$E 7,700,000 per year and is far larger than is needed for internal security. It was established during the war when internal security was very bad, in order to release British troops for the North African Campaign, and has been kept up ever since through a feeling of insecurity on the part of the Emperor and Government.

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The Minister of War and the Colonel of the Imperial Guard (Col. Mulugueta) are both members of the conservative group and opposed to the majority of the present Government and to the Emperor's commercial transactions. This desire to increase the size of the Army may possibly be related to the ambitions of this Opposition Group.

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